



RTCA in South Carolina

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) staff provide technical assistance to community groups, city, county, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations working to enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation opportunities. We help local leaders plan and design trails and parks; conserve and improve access to natural areas; protect special places; and create recreation opportunities.

The RTCA program in South Carolina offers a wide range of services that can be tailored to meet the needs of an individual project. The NPS staff members are trained facilitators who encourage project leaders to build collaborative partnerships among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The program helps communities and groups define their vision, goals, and objectives; analyze issues and opportunities; and develop strategic action plans and time lines for projects. We do not provide financial assistance, but can help project partners identify and secure sources of funding and technical support.

Any community with committed project partners can apply for assistance. Believing the best plans are completed locally, the National Park Service will work with partners to encourage broad-based community participation in planning, designing, and implementing the projects we support.

In 2016, the National Park Service in South Carolina will work on a variety of projects including:

- **Catawba Regional Blueways** – The project goal is to create a regional blueways partnership that will link coordination and planning efforts on all tri-county waterways in order to enhance recreation, economic development and conservation stewardship. The project will also strive to protect the area's natural resources through education and community outreach strategies. (Location: York, Lancaster, Chester and Union Counties, South Carolina)
- **Edisto River Recreation Management** – The project goal is to create a comprehensive recreation management plan for 62 miles of the Edisto River along the border between Dorchester and Colleton Counties, South Carolina. (Location: Dorchester County, South Carolina)
- **Laurens County Greenways** – The project goal is to create a concept for a trail system and related plan for Laurens County. The work also includes conducting a feasibility study for extending the Swamp Rabbit Trail, and a plan for a demonstration project. (Location: Laurens County, South Carolina)
- **Low Country Regional Blueways** – The project goal is to create a regional blueways partnership that will link coordination and planning efforts on all tri-county waterways in order to enhance recreation, economic development and conservation stewardship. The project will also protect the area's natural resources through education and community outreach.. (Location: Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties, South Carolina)
- **Ninety Six Gateway Park and Greenway System** – The project goal is to develop seventeen acres of open space into a gateway park that will include walking trails, an outdoor/environmental classroom, picnic pavilions and other recreation opportunities, as well as promote a system of greenway corridors that will link the proposed gateway park to the Ninety Six National Historic Site. (Location: Ninety Six, South Carolina)



Walkers and bikers enjoying the Laurens County Greenway. Photo: Mac Stone

- **Spartanburg Blueways** – The project goal is to create a county-wide master plan and paddle guide for blueways throughout Spartanburg County and to develop strategies for unifying existing blueway partnerships. (Location: Spartanburg, South Carolina)

Recent Success Story

Saluda River Blue Trail, SC-ASLA Design Charrette (Piedmont, SC) – In partnership with the National Park Service, the South Carolina's Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects hosted a one day charrette to help establish two critical design elements associated with the 48 mile Saluda River Blue Trail. Interested citizens, historians, county planners, paddlers, and landscape architects from across the state of South Carolina convened to design both a newly purchased parcel and a river portage site along the Saluda River. By the conclusion of the charrette, the participants had developed two conceptual plans that included an accessible river access and boat launch, designated recreation areas, potential community gardens, and protected conservation areas. Landscape architects and planners from across South Carolina worked collaboratively to utilize their creative talents to further the development of the Saluda River Blue Trail into a 48-mile "upstate" paddle trail.

For more information about the RTCA program refer to: www.nps.gov/rtca, or for information about ongoing or potential RTCA projects in South Carolina contact:

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